

REMARKS

The present communication is responsive to the Office Action mailed December 12, 2008. Claims 1-13 and 15-44 were pending in the application. Claims 1-13 and 15-25 were allowed and claims 26-44 were rejected in the Action. Claims 26, 40 and 41 have been amended and no claims have been canceled or added herein. Therefore, claims 1-13 and 15-25 remain pending in the application. Applicant sets forth remarks relating to the Action below.

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1-13 and 15-25 in the present Action.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for taking the time on February 19, 2009 to participate in a telephone interview with Applicant's undersigned counsel. The focus of the interview was a discussion of U.S. Pat. No. 4,900,379 to Chapman ("Chapman") in view of independent claim 26 and claims 27-44 depending therefrom. While Applicant agrees with Examiner that Chapman does not anticipate dependent claim 41, Applicant has amended independent claim 26 to overcome Chapman and has maintained the dependency of claims 40 and 41 from independent claim 26.

In the Action, the Examiner rejected claims 26-32, 34, 35 and 40-42 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 4,900,379 to Chapman ("Chapman"), claims 33 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chapman in view of Japan Patent No. 9-30,097 to Tanigawa ("Tanigawa"), claims 36 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chapman in view of Japan Patent No. 10-193,635 to Yamaguchi ("Yamaguchi"), claim 38 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chapman in view of Soviet Union Patent No. 1,689,473 to Abramchenko ("Abramchenko"), and claims 43-44 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chapman in view of U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0002416 to Herman Jr. ("Herman Jr.").

Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 26 is not anticipated by Chapman because the cited reference does not disclose or suggest a processing device for processing composite components having a support device, a stamp pad, a material-removing unit and a handling unit, "wherein the stamp pad of the composite components at least partially joined to the support device is divided into several pad parts spaced at a distance apart from one another by means of a dividing gap by the material-removing unit." Amended claim 26 recites the composite components to which the processing device is designed to be applied. According to paragraph [0003] of the present application, a device is disclosed whereby composite components including a stamp pad and a support device can be made by a simple and flexible manufacturing process. Also disclosed is a processing method and processing device wherein individually user-defined composite components including a composition of differently coloured stamp pad parts, for use with a stamp device, e.g. a stamp plate, can be manufactured in the improved manner.

In the present application, an assembly of (e.g. differently coloured) stamping pad parts is provided in order to be able to produce (e.g. multi-coloured) stamping prints by additional use of a stamping plate. This is accomplished by cutting pad parts 11 from only one uniformly produced stamping pad 4 using a material removing unit 6 first and an ink dispenser unit 46 for soaking the pad parts with (e.g. differently coloured) ink drops 58 thereafter, both units collaborating with the same handling unit 7. The dividing gaps 13 between the pad parts 11 must have a definite lateral extension (i.e. a distance 60) in order to separate the pad parts 11 one from each other such that an unintentional ink mixture is reliably prevented. The product of the process, namely the (e.g. multi-coloured) stamping pad assembly arranged

in a support device 3, is complete after cutting the individual pad parts 11 from one original stamp pad 4 and soaking them with (e.g. differently coloured) ink drops 58. Consequently, all structure elements, i.e. in particular all pad parts 11, remain on their location, which is determined by the cutting process. As disclosed in the specification, the pad parts are shaped and soaked with (e.g. coloured) ink by giving up any solid border between them in order to improve the production process.

Chapman does not disclose such claimed features and therefore cannot be used to anticipate amended claim 26. Applicant respectfully submits claim 26 is in condition for allowance. Claims 27-44 depending from claim 26 are also unanticipated by Chapman and are in condition for allowance, *inter alia*, their dependence from an allowable base claim. The other references cited in the Action, namely, Tanigawa, Yamaguchi, Abramchenko and Herman Jr. cannot be used to cure the deficiencies of Chapman.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone Applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

Application No.: 10/550,249

Docket No.: TRODAT 3.3-001

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,
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